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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We acknowledge today, O Lord, Your power, mercy, and grace. We need Your power, for the challenges we face require more than human wisdom. We need Your mercy, for we transgress Your love and fall short of Your glory. We need Your grace, for we cannot offer anything to merit Your favor or gain Your love.

Lord, empower our Senators for today's journeys. Give them confidence to draw near to You that they may find grace to help them in this time of need. May they pass their days in the companionship of Your everlasting presence. Lord, enable them to learn the stewardship of time, energy, and abundance. Guide their gifts with Your wisdom as You help them with their decisions.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELLES DECLARATION ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on this very day in 1940, Acting Secretary

of State Sumner Welles issued a statement outlining U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union's annexation of the Baltic States. It began: "During these past few days the devious processes whereunder the political independence and territorial integrity of the three small Baltic Republics—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—were to be deliberately annihilated by one of their more powerful neighbors, have been rapidly drawing to their conclusion."

It expressed the sympathy of the people of the United States for democratic self-government and, at the same time, articulated the policy of the United States to oppose predatory activities using force or the threat of force or any intervention in the affairs of another sovereign state. The United States continued to recognize the sovereignty of the Baltic States throughout about 50 years of Soviet occupation.

Things that go around come around. Now we have a historical footnote. Vladimir Putin has been trying to rewrite this history for his own devious purposes—reverting to the absurd Soviet claim that the Baltics in 1940 joined the Soviet Union voluntarily.

There are also clear parallels we ought to take notice of to this current Russian occupation of parts of the Republic of Georgia and the Ukraine. The principles in Secretary of State Welles' Declaration are as relevant today as they were 80 years ago.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on another issue—and more current—earlier this year, after the longest economic expansion in U.S. history, the government told the American people to stay home and businesses to close—the first time in 240 years of our country. Countless lives have been saved because Americans heeded their government's call. And at the same time, whether they wanted to or not, they

were sacrificing for their fellow Americans.

There is no doubt that containing this virus has caused economic pain not seen since the Great Depression. Hopefully, we are racing toward a vaccine answer to this pandemic. In the meantime, Americans must continue to sacrifice, just as previous generations did for the sake of their neighbors, families, friends, and loved ones.

Make no mistake, we will beat this virus, and the United States of America will emerge stronger and even more prosperous than before.

Today, Senate Republicans, hopefully, will unveil an unprecedented expansion of previous assistance to help our country get through this crisis. As Finance Committee chairman, I look forward to introducing further assistance to individuals, relief for workers and employers, support for patients, providers, and foster youth, and additional flexibilities for State and local governments to fight this disease and the economic pain that has come before it.

I call on my colleagues to, once again, work together and not let partisan politics or gamesmanship get in the way of delivering for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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